

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert A. Heiberger  
Appl. No.: 09/237,687  
Filed: January 26, 1999  
Docket No.: 1671  
Conf. No.: 7198  
Title: **A FLUID CONTAINER CLOSURE MECHANISM WITH  
DETACHABLE VALVE ASSEMBLY**  
Art Unit: 3752  
Examiner: Christopher S. Kim  
Action: **AMENDMENT AFTER APPEAL**  
Date: December 23, 2002



TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Decision of the Board of Appeals dated October 21, 2002, please reconsider the above-identified patent application based upon the following amendment and the following remarks:

**In the claims:**

Kindly cancel claims 2, 3, 4, and 33.

Kindly replace the below-numbered claims with the following rewritten claims of the same number:

1. (Twice amended) A closure for a container that is adapted to hold a product for dispensing, comprising:

(a) a cap member mountable to a container, said cap member having a product outlet passage and a sleeve defining said outlet passage that includes a guide member and a longitudinal slot along said guide member; and

(b) a valve body disposed for longitudinal movement within said sleeve between an open position to permit flow of product through said